

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To ensure equal treatment of faith-based organizations participating in programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BUDD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To ensure equal treatment of faith-based organizations participating in programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Equal Treatment of
5 Faith Based Organizations Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENSURING THAT ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE**
2 **OF HHS-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLY**
3 **EQUALLY TO FAITH-BASED AND NON-FAITH-**
4 **BASED ORGANIZATIONS.**

5 The Secretary of Health and Human Services—

6 (1) shall not (including by means of any grant
7 document, agreement, covenant, memorandum of un-
8 derstanding, policy, or regulation)—

9 (A) require faith-based organizations to
10 provide an assurance or notice as a condition on
11 receipt of financial assistance from the Depart-
12 ment of Health and Human Services (in this
13 Act referred to as “HHS-financial assistance”)
14 if such assurance or notice is not required of a
15 non-faith-based organization;

16 (B) disqualify faith-based organizations
17 from participating in any program or service of
18 the Department of Health and Human Services
19 because such organizations are motivated or in-
20 fluenced by religious faith to provide social
21 services, or because of their religious affiliation
22 or exercise; or

23 (C) otherwise apply any requirement or re-
24 striction on the use of HHS-financial assistance
25 to faith-based organizations unless such re-

1 quirement or restriction is applied equally to
2 non-faith-based organizations; and

3 (2) shall prohibit each State or local govern-
4 ment administering HHS-financial assistance
5 from—

6 (A) implementing a requirement or restric-
7 tion described in paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(C); or

8 (B) disqualifying a faith-based organiza-
9 tion as described in paragraph (1)(B).

10 **SEC. 3. ENSURING THAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOT RE-**
11 **QUIRED TO MAKE CERTAIN REFERRALS TO**
12 **ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS.**

13 The Secretary of Health and Human Services—

14 (1) shall not (including by means of any grant
15 document, agreement, covenant, memorandum of un-
16 derstanding, policy, or regulation) require any orga-
17 nization that provides services under a program sup-
18 ported by HHS-financial assistance to refer a bene-
19 ficiary or prospective beneficiary of the program to
20 an alternative provider if the beneficiary or prospec-
21 tive beneficiary objects to the religious character of
22 the organization; and

23 (2) shall prohibit each State or local govern-
24 ment administering HHS-financial assistance from

- 1 implementing a requirement described in paragraph
- 2 (1).